

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAVANA 01351 211906Z

ACTION NODS-00

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FM USINT HAVANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1961

S E C R E T HAVANA 1351

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SHABA: MESSAGE FOR CUBANS

REF: (A) STATE 127846, (B) STATE 128392

1. ACTING USINT CHIEF CONVEYED REF A MESSAGE TO VICE-MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS ANILLO AT 1230 LOCAL TIME, MAY 21. ANILLO TOOK NON-BELLIGERENT APPROACH AND MADE FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR URGING (STATE 127459), CUBANS TODAY, MAY 21, HAVE ISSUED PUBLIC DECLARATION IN NEWSPAPER JUVENTUD REBELDE POINTING UP THEIR NON-INVOLVEMENT WITH KATANGU REBELS. DECLARATION, ANILLO ADDED, ALSO DENOUNCES SITUATION CREATED BY PRESENCE OF NATO FORCES ON FRONTIERS OF ANGOLA. (COMMENT: CUBAN DECLARATION, REPORTED BY SEPTTEL, STATES THAT CUBA HAS: A) NO LINK WITH SHABA FORCES; B) THERE DO NOT EXIST, AND HAVE NOT EXISTED, RELATIONS OF MILITARY COLLABORATION BETWEEN THESE FORCES AND CUBA; C) CUBA HAS NOT SUPPLIED MILITARY EQUIPMENT NOR TRAINED THESE FORCES; D) CUBA HAS NOT HAD ANY PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIONS OF THESE FORCES; AND E) THERE IS NO PRESENCE OF ANY KIND IN ZAIRE OF CUBAN SPECIALISTS OR COMBATANTS.)

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 HAVANA 01351 211906Z

3. WITH REGARD TO DEPARTMENT AND WHITE HOUSE STATEMENTS THAT CUBANS TRAINED KATANGANS, ANILLO REITERATED THAT CUBANS HAVE HAD NO DIRECT NOR INDIRECT RELATIONS WITH KATANGANS "SINCE END OF ANGOLA WAR." CUBANS, ANILLO SAID CALMLY, DO NOT "AGREE WITH" USE BY OFFICIAL ORGAN OF U.S.M GOVERNMENT OF TENDENTIOUS INFORMATION. IF GENERAL MBUMBA CLAIMED THAT CUBANS TRAINED KATANGANS (REF A), ANILLO SAID, THIS INCREASES HAVANA'S SKEPTICISM OVER MOTIVES OF KATANGESE INTERVENTION.

ANILLO ADDED THAT CUBANS OPPOSE KATANGESE INCURSION, ESPECIALLY COMING AS IT DOES AFTER SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACK ON ANGOLA. HE SAID THAT CUBA CANNOT AGREE WITH USE OF ANGOLAN TERRITORY TO PRODUCE SITUATION OF THIS SORT. ANILLO THEN REITERATED FIDEL CASTRO'S STATEMENTS TO LYLE LANE THAT CUBANS DO NOT KNOW WHAT MOTIVATED KATANGESE TO LAUNCH THEIR INCURSION, BUT THAT CUBANS ARE AWARE THAT KATANGESE HAVE CONTACTS IN WESTERN EUROPE.

4. ON YOUR POSSIBLE MEETING WITH CUBAN VICE-PRESIDENT CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ, ANILLO SHOWED TELEGRAM FROM CUBAN UN MISSION REPORTING AMBASSADOR JIM LEONARD'S REQUEST FOR SUCH A MEETING. WHILE POINTING OUT THAT HE HAD NO CONFIRMATION YET OF CUBAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPTANCE OF MEETING, ANILLO REMARKED FAVORABLY ON ASSURANCES (REF B) THAT ALL SUBJECTS WOULD BE OPEN FOR DISCUSSION.

5. COMMENT: ANILLO SEEMED FAR MORE CONCILIATORY THAN IN MAY 19 CONVERSATION.
GLASSMAN

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NNN

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